

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 24, 2010, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing Amendment and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25-30, and 32-34 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25-34 stand rejected. Claims 2, 8, and 13-24 were previously cancelled, and Claim 31 has been canceled by the above Amendment. Claims 1, 7, and 25 have each been amended. No new subject matter has been added.

The objection to the abstract of the disclosure is respectfully traversed. Paragraph [0028] has been amended to clarify how an additive is added during a wash cycle by reciting that the “washing machine 50 is controlled to allow the user to pre-add a wash additive such as bleach to the reservoir 130 at or before starting the wash cycle, wherein the additive is then dispensed from reservoir 130 to annular space 92 at a predetermined dispense time during the wash cycle.” No new matter has been added. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the abstract of the disclosure be withdrawn.

Applicants note the rejection of Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 31 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 31 is deemed moot.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of Claim 31 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korean Reference KR2003055965 to Je in view of U.K. Patent Application Publication No. GB4043158 to Huttemann et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Huttemann”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,118,297 to Olding is respectfully traversed.

To the extent understood, Je describes a bleach input apparatus for a washing machine. The input apparatus includes a storage unit (40) with a bleaching agent chamber (41) and a softening agent chamber (42). A partition (46) separates chambers (41 and 42), and a siphon pipe (43 and 43') extends from an interior of each chamber (40 and 41), respectively, to a pass station (65) of a tub cover (60). Siphon caps (50, 50') are installed on

siphons (43 and 43'), respectively. More specifically, siphon caps (50, 50') are coupled to the top end portions of siphons (43 and 43'), respectively, such that siphons (43 and 43') are located in the interior portions of siphon caps (50, 50'). Je notes that siphons (43 and 43') are positioned with respect to their respective siphon caps (50, 50') such that a gap is maintained between siphons (43 and 43') and siphon caps (50, 50'). *See* page 3 of the English translation of Je for the Structure and Function of the Invention (Device). Moreover, a cover (30) is removably coupled to storage unit (40). Je further describes the exits for siphons (43 and 43') and pass station (65) as being formed to one side of a cover body (61). Pass station (65) is segmented in the upper side of cover body (61) with a compartment fence (66). An incline (67) that guides the bleaching agent and the softening agent is molded on the inside of pass station (65). A through-hole (68) is located at the bottom of incline (67) and Je describes through-hole (68) "as being more desirable". *Id.* The bleaching agent and the softening agent pass through-hole (68) and are "dropped" into the intervening space of the washing tub and water tank, with the water tank being inside. *Id.* Notably, as acknowledged by the Office (page 5, paragraph 12), Je does not describe nor suggest a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. Moreover, as also acknowledged by the Office (page 5, paragraph 11), Je does not describe nor suggest a conduit coupled to the reservoir cover.

Huttemann describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow. The program includes a washing machine having a drum (1) mounted in a tank (2). The program also includes a control device (3), a central processor unit (4), and a magnetic valve (6). Magnetic valve (6) opens to allow water to flow until a predetermined nominal level (N_1) is reached. Upon reaching N_1 , magnetic valve (6) is closed and the washing movement of drum (1) begins. During the washing machine movement, the water level in the tank drops due to absorbency. If the water level reaches a reconnection point (N_R), magnetic valve (6) reopens to restore the water level to N_1 . Notably, Huttemann does not describe nor suggest a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. Moreover, Huttemann does not describe nor suggest a conduit coupled to the reservoir cover.

Olding describes an automatic washer that includes a cabinet (20), an outer splash tub (34), an extractor wash tub (32), and a bleaching agent conduit (82). Conduit (82) includes a funnel like inlet (84) and extends over a rim (33) of tub (32). Moreover, conduit (82) introduces a bleaching agent into tub (32). Olding further describes that conduit (82) is disposed such that the bleaching agent does not enter tub (32), except by subsequent operation of the apparatus effective to dilute its strength. Olding also describes conduit (82) as extending for a sufficient length in tub (32) to assure that the agent does not splash through any apertures. *See* col. 3, lines 24-26. Conduit (82) assures that the agent will flow to and rest on the bottom of tub (32). *See* col. 3, lines 26-30. Notably, Olding does not describe nor suggest a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting.

Claim 1 recites an additive dispensing system for a washing machine including a tub for holding wash liquid and a basket for holding articles to be washed, and defining an annular space between the tub and the basket, wherein the additive dispensing system comprises “a top cover . . . a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover and configured to contain an additive, said reservoir comprising a removable reservoir cover having an upper siphon fitting extending downwardly from said reservoir cover and a lower siphon fitting removably coupled with said upper siphon fitting . . . a conduit coupled to said reservoir cover and extending into the annular space....”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests an additive dispensing system for a washing machine as is recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. Rather, in contrast, Je only describes siphon pipes as being located within chambers of the storage unit, and does not describe the cover for the storage unit as having any siphon pipes. Moreover, Huttemann and Olding do not fulfill the deficiencies noted for Je. Huttemann merely describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow and rather than any type of reservoir, Olding merely describes a conduit that is disposed within

the tub such that the bleaching agent does not enter the tub, except by subsequent operation of the apparatus effective to dilute its strength.

Further, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Je to make the siphon caps integral with the removable cover to achieve the expected result of stably positioning the siphon caps on top of the siphon pipes. More specifically, Je notes that the siphons in the storage unit are positioned with respect to their respective siphon caps (such that a gap is maintained between siphons and their respective siphon caps. *See* page 3 of the English translation of Je for the Structure and Function of the Invention (Device). Having the siphon caps be integral with the cover for the storage unit may not necessarily allow for such a gap to be maintained.

In addition, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a conduit coupled to the reservoir cover. Rather, in contrast, Je describes an incline that guides the bleaching agent and the softening agent into a through-hole located at the bottom of the incline. Huttemann does not fulfill the deficiencies noted for Je, as Huttemann merely describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Je with Olding to create a washing machine dispenser which injects diluted agent at a specific location in the space between the tub and basket to achieve the expected result. Obviousness can be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some rationale to do so. MPEP 2143.01. However, if a proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Here, Olding describes the conduit as extending for a sufficient length in the tub in order to assure that the agent does not splash through any apertures. *See* col. 3, lines 24-26. Moreover, the conduit assures that the agent will *flow to* and rest on the bottom of the tub. *See* col. 3, lines 26-30. In contrast, the invention described in Je does not seek to assure that the agent does not splash through any apertures nor does the invention in Je seek to have the agent flow to and rest on the bottom of the tub. Rather, Je uses a hole at the bottom of the incline which Je deems "as being more desirable," *see* page 3 of the English translation of Je for the Structure and

Function of the Invention (Device), such that the bleaching agent and the softening agent pass the through-the hole and are dropped into the intervening space of the washing tub and water tank. *Id.* As such, there is no rationale to combine Je with Olding.

Even if Je could be modified to include the conduit described in Olding, such a combination would likely not arrive at the claimed invention, as the conduit could not be coupled to the reservoir cover. Je describes the exits for siphons and pass station as being formed to one side of a cover body. Moreover, an incline that guides the bleaching agent and the softening agent is molded on the inside of the pass station, wherein a through-hole is located at the bottom of the incline. The conduit of Olding would likely be coupled to the through-hole, which is part of the pass station, and not the cover of the storage unit.

Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 1 to be patentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding.

Claims 3-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 3-6 likewise are patentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite a washing machine comprising an additive dispensing system comprising “a top cover . . . a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover and configured to contain an additive, said reservoir comprising a removable reservoir cover having an upper siphon fitting extending downwardly from said reservoir cover and a lower siphon fitting removably coupled with said upper siphon fitting . . . a conduit coupled to said reservoir cover....”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a washing machine as is recited in Claim 7. More specifically, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. Rather, in contrast, Je only describes siphon pipes as being located within chambers of the storage unit, and does not describe the cover for the storage unit as having any siphon pipes. Moreover, Huttemann and

Olding do not fulfill the deficiencies noted for Je. Huttemann merely describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow and rather than any type or reservoir, Olding merely describes a conduit that is disposed within the tub such that the bleaching agent does not enter the tub, except by subsequent operation of the apparatus effective to dilute its strength.

Further, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Je to make the siphon caps integral with the removable cover to achieve the expected result of stably positioning the siphon caps on top of the siphon pipes. More specifically, Je notes that the siphons in the storage unit are positioned with respect to their respective siphon caps (such that a gap is maintained between siphons and their respective siphon caps. *See* page 3 of the English translation of Je for the Structure and Function of the Invention (Device). Having the siphon caps be integral with the cover for the storage unit may not necessarily allow for such a gap to be maintained.

In addition, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a conduit coupled to the reservoir cover. Rather, in contrast, Je describes an incline that guides the bleaching agent and the softening agent into a through-hole located at the bottom of the incline. Huttemann does not fulfill the deficiencies noted for Je, as Huttemann merely describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Je with Olding to create a washing machine dispenser which injects diluted agent at a specific location in the space between the tub and basket to achieve the expected result. Obviousness can be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some rationale to do so. MPEP 2143.01. However, if a proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Here, Olding describes the conduit as extending for a sufficient length in the tub in order to assure that the agent does not splash through any apertures. *See* col. 3, lines 24-26. Moreover, the conduit assures that the agent will *flow to* and rest on the bottom of the tub. *See* col. 3, lines 26-30. In contrast, the invention described in Je does not seek to assure that the agent does not splash

through any apertures nor does the invention in Je seek to have the agent flow to and rest on the bottom of the tub. Rather, Je uses a hole at the bottom of the incline which Je deems “as being more desirable,” *see* page 3 of the English translation of Je for the Structure and Function of the Invention (Device), such that the bleaching agent and the softening agent pass the through-the hole and are dropped into the intervening space of the washing tub and water tank. *Id.* As such, there is no rationale to combine Je with Olding.

Even if Je could be modified to include the conduit described in Olding, such a combination would likely not arrive at the claimed invention, as the conduit could not be coupled to the reservoir cover. Je describes the exits for siphons and pass station as being formed to one side of a cover body. Moreover, an incline that guides the bleaching agent and the softening agent is molded on the inside of the pass station, wherein a through-hole is located at the bottom of the incline. The conduit of Olding would likely be coupled to the through-hole, which is part of the pass station, and not the cover of the storage unit.

Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 7 to be patentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding.

Claims 9-12 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 9-12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 9-12 likewise are patentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding.

Claim 25 recites an additive dispensing system for a washing machine, wherein the washing machine includes a tub for holding wash liquid and a basket for holding articles to be washed, and defining an annular space between the tub and the basket, and the additive dispensing system comprises “a reservoir cover comprising a plurality of tabs extending from said reservoir cover, said plurality of tabs configured to engage a top cover of the washing machine and an upper siphon fitting extending downwardly from said reservoir cover . . . a reservoir configured to contain an additive and removably coupled to said reservoir cover, said reservoir comprising a lower siphon fitting coupled with said upper siphon fitting . . . a conduit coupled to said reservoir cover....”

Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests an additive dispensing system as is recited in Claim 25. More

specifically, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. Rather, in contrast, Je only describes siphon pipes as being located within chambers of the storage unit, and does not describe the cover for the storage unit as having any siphon pipes. Moreover, Huttemann and Olding do not fulfill the deficiencies noted for Je. Huttemann merely describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow and rather than any type or reservoir, Olding merely describes a conduit that is disposed within the tub such that the bleaching agent does not enter the tub, except by subsequent operation of the apparatus effective to dilute its strength.

Further, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Je to make the siphon caps integral with the removable cover to achieve the expected result of stably positioning the siphon caps on top of the siphon pipes. More specifically, Je notes that the siphons in the storage unit are positioned with respect to their respective siphon caps (such that a gap is maintained between siphons and their respective siphon caps. *See* page 3 of the English translation of Je for the Structure and Function of the Invention (Device). Having the siphon caps be integral with the cover for the storage unit may not necessarily allow for such a gap to be maintained.

In addition, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a conduit coupled to the reservoir cover. Rather, in contrast, Je describes an incline that guides the bleaching agent and the softening agent into a through-hole located at the bottom of the incline. Huttemann does not fulfill the deficiencies noted for Je, as Huttemann merely describes a program for controlling a washing machine water inflow.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office's assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Je with Olding to create a washing machine dispenser which injects diluted agent at a specific location in the space between the tub and basket to achieve the expected result. Obviousness can be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some rationale to do so. MPEP 2143.01. However, if a proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for

its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Here, Olding describes the conduit as extending for a sufficient length in the tub in order to assure that the agent does not splash through any apertures. *See* col. 3, lines 24-26. Moreover, the conduit assures that the agent will *flow to* and rest on the bottom of the tub. *See* col. 3, lines 26-30. In contrast, the invention described in Je does not seek to assure that the agent does not splash through any apertures nor does the invention in Je seek to have the agent flow to and rest on the bottom of the tub. Rather, Je uses a hole at the bottom of the incline which Je deems “as being more desirable,” *see* page 3 of the English translation of Je for the Structure and Function of the Invention (Device), such that the bleaching agent and the softening agent pass the through-the hole and are dropped into the intervening space of the washing tub and water tank. *Id.* As such, there is no rationale to combine Je with Olding.

Even if Je could be modified to include the conduit described in Olding, such a combination would likely not arrive at the claimed invention, as the conduit could not be coupled to the reservoir cover. Je describes the exits for siphons and pass station as being formed to one side of a cover body. Moreover, an incline that guides the bleaching agent and the softening agent is molded on the inside of the pass station, wherein a through-hole is located at the bottom of the incline. The conduit of Olding would likely be coupled to the through-hole, which is part of the pass station, and not the cover of the storage unit.

Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 25 to be patentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding.

Claim 26 depends from Claim 25. When the recitations of Claim 26 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 25, Applicants submit that Claim 26 is likewise patentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 103 rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25, and 26 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 27-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Je in view of Huttemann and further in view of Olding and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3727434 to Bochan in view of EP Patent Application No. EP0252817A1 to Heyde et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Heyde”) is respectfully traversed.

Je, Huttemann, and Olding are each described above.

Bochan describes an additive dispensing system that includes a dispenser (18) having a cover (48). Dispenser (18) is divided into four annular compartments (52, 53, 54, and 55) by a series of radial walls (57, 58, and 59). Each compartment (52, 53, 54, and 55) can contain a different type of presoak agents. Openings (43, 44, 46, and 47) in cover (48) communicate with compartments (52, 53, 54, and 55), respectively, such that presoak agents placed in openings (43, 44, 46, and 47) pass through compartments (52, 53, 54, and 55), respectively. A conduit (31) extends up and terminates at a liquid flow diverter mechanism (32). Notably, Bochan does not describe nor suggest a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting.

To the extent understood, Heyde describes an automatic cycle control system for a washing machine or clothes drier which incorporates a system for automatically setting the cycle characteristics of the load. The control system also incorporates a means for a user to override the automatic controls. Notably, Heyde does not describe or suggest a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. Moreover, Heyde does not describe nor suggest a conduit coupled to the reservoir cover.

Claims 27-30 and 32-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, which is recited above. As discussed above, Claim 1 is submitted to patentable over Je, Huttemann, and Olding, as no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a reservoir that includes a lower siphon fitting and a removable reservoir cover, wherein the reservoir cover has an upper siphon fitting that extends downwardly from the reservoir cover and the lower siphon fitting is removably coupled with the upper siphon fitting. Moreover, as also discussed above, no combination of Je, Huttemann, and Olding describes nor suggests a conduit coupled to the reservoir cover. In addition, Bochan and Heyde do not fulfill the deficiencies noted for Je, Huttemann, and Olding. While Bochan describes dispenser with a cover and compartments, Bochan does not describe either the cover or the compartments as having siphon fittings. Moreover, Heyde merely describes a control system for a washing machine or clothes drier which incorporates a system for

automatically setting the cycle characteristics of the load. Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 1 to be patentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding and further in view of Bochan in view Heyde.

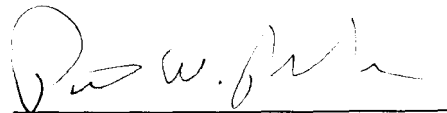
Claims 27-30 and 32-34 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 27-30 and 32-34 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 27-30 and 32-34 likewise are patentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding and further in view of Bochan in view Heyde.

Applicants note the rejection of Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Je in view of Hutteman and further in view of Olding and further in view of Bochan in view Heyde. Claim 31 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 31 is deemed moot.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 103 rejection of Claims 27-34 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick W. Rasche
Registration No. 37,916
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
7700 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 1800
St. Louis, Missouri 63105